

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A stable liquid adhesive for sealing a wound, the adhesive comprising:
 - a cyanoacrylate;
 - a therapeutic agent comprising an antibiotic;
 - a defect forming agent capable of being removed from a cured cyanoacrylate matrix by solvation in an aqueous solution whereby a plurality of defects in the matrix are formed permitting release of the therapeutic agent from the matrix at a controlled rate; and
 - a protective shell surrounding the therapeutic agent that prevents premature polymerization of the adhesive by blocking direct contact between the therapeutic agent and the cyanoacrylate surrounding said therapeutic agent.
2. (Previously presented) The liquid adhesive of claim 1, wherein the cyanoacrylate comprises butyl cyanoacrylate.
3. (Previously presented) The liquid adhesive of claim 1, wherein the cyanoacrylate comprises octyl cyanoacrylate.
4. (Previously presented) The liquid adhesive of claim 1, wherein the defect forming agent comprises a hydrophilic polymer.
5. (Previously presented) The liquid adhesive of claim 4, wherein the hydrophilic polymer comprises polyethylene glycol.
6. (Previously presented) The liquid adhesive of claim 5, wherein the polyethylene glycol has an average molecular weight of about 600.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously presented) The liquid adhesive of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory agents, anti-infective agents, immunosuppressive agents, and anesthetic agents.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) The liquid adhesive of claim 1, further comprising a water-soluble acidic anti degradation agent.
11. (Previously presented) The liquid adhesive of claim 10, wherein the water-soluble acidic antidegradation agent comprises Vitamin C.

12. (Previously presented) A method of sealing a wound, the method comprising the steps of:

approximating the wound;

applying a liquid adhesive to a tissue surface surrounding the wound, the liquid adhesive comprising a mixture of a cyanoacrylate, a therapeutic agent comprising an antibiotic, a protective shell surrounding the therapeutic agent preventing premature polymerization of the adhesive by blocking direct contact between the therapeutic agent and the cyanoacrylate surrounding said therapeutic agent, and a water soluble defect forming agent;

curing the adhesive, whereby the wound is sealed;

removing the defect forming agent from the cured adhesive by solvating the defect forming agent in a body fluid, whereby a plurality of defects in the cured adhesive are formed; and

delivering the antibiotic to the wound through the defects in the cured adhesive at a controlled rate, wherein the shell provides long-term controlled release of the antibiotic from the cured adhesive.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the cyanoacrylate comprises butyl cyanoacrylate.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the cyanoacrylate comprises octyl cyanoacrylate.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the defect forming agent comprises a hydrophilic polymer.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the hydrophilic polymer comprises polyethylene glycol.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the polyethylene glycol has an average molecular weight of about 600.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the therapeutic agent further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory agents, anti-infective agents, immunosuppressive agents, and anesthetic agents.

21. (Canceled)
22. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the wound comprises a skin laceration.
23. (Previously presented)The method of claim 12, wherein the liquid adhesive further comprises a water-soluble acidic antidegradation agent.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the water-soluble acidic antidegradation agent comprises Vitamin C.
25. (Canceled)
26. (Previously presented)The liquid adhesive of claim 1, wherein the protective shell comprises a gelatin microcapsule.
27. (Previously presented)The liquid adhesive of claim 1, wherein the antibiotic comprises gatifloxacin.
28. (Previously presented)The liquid adhesive of claim 1, wherein the antibiotic comprises Penicillin G.
29. (Previously presented)The liquid adhesive of claim 1, wherein the antibiotic comprises Sulfanilamide.
30. (Canceled)
31. (Previously presented)The method of claim 12, wherein the protective shell comprises a gelatin microcapsule.
32. (Previously presented)The method of claim 12, wherein the antibiotic comprises gatifloxacin.
33. (Previously presented)The method of claim 12, wherein the antibiotic comprises Penicillin G.
34. (Previously presented)The method of claim 12, wherein the antibiotic comprises Sulfanilamide.
35. (Previously presented)The adhesive of claim 1, wherein said protective shell provides long-term controlled release of the antibiotic from the cured cyanoacrylate matrix.
36. (Currently amended) The ~~adhesive~~ method of claim 12, wherein said protective shell provides long-term controlled release of the antibiotic from the cured cyanoacrylate matrix.

37. (Previously presented) A method of sealing a wound with a liquid adhesive, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a protective shell around an antibiotic to prevent premature polymerization of a liquid adhesive by blocking direct contact between the antibiotic and a cyanoacrylate;

approximating the wound;

applying a liquid adhesive to a tissue surface surrounding the wound, said liquid adhesive comprising a mixture of the cyanoacrylate, the antibiotic surrounded by the protective shell, and a water soluble defect forming agent;

curing the adhesive, whereby the wound is sealed;

removing the defect forming agent from the cured adhesive by solvating the defect forming agent in a body fluid, whereby a plurality of defects in the cured adhesive are formed; and

delivering the antibiotic to the wound through the defects in the cured adhesive at a controlled rate.

38. (New) The adhesive of claim 1, wherein the antibiotic in the stable liquid adhesive consists essentially of antibiotic in a form wherein a protective shell surrounds the antibiotic that prevents premature polymerization of the adhesive by blocking direct contact between the antibiotic and the cyanoacrylate surrounding the protective shell.

39. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the antibiotic in the liquid adhesive consists essentially of antibiotic in a form wherein a protective shell surrounds the antibiotic that prevents premature polymerization of the adhesive by blocking direct contact between the antibiotic and the cyanoacrylate surrounding the protective shell.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the antibiotic in the liquid adhesive consists essentially of antibiotic in a form wherein a protective shell surrounds the antibiotic that prevents premature polymerization of the adhesive by blocking direct contact between the antibiotic and the cyanoacrylate surrounding the protective shell.